

When I came to the White House, I reflected on the responsibility I have always felt as a mother to encourage, give strength, and teach values of kindness. It is our duty as adults and parents to ensure that children have the best opportunities to lead fulfilling and healthy lives.

The passion for helping children succeed would drive my policy initiative as First Lady.

I launched Be Best to ensure that we as Americans are doing everything we can to take care of the next generation. Be Best has concentrated on three pillars: well-being, on-line safety, and opioid abuse.

In a few short years, I have raised awareness of how to keep children safe online; we have made incredible progress on our nation's drug epidemic and how it impacts the lives of newborns and families, and we have given a voice to our most vulnerable children in the foster care system.

Internationally, Be Best has evolved into a platform that encourages world leaders to discuss issues impacting the lives of children and allows them to share solutions. It has been an honor to represent the American people abroad. I treasure each of my experiences and the inspiring people I have met along the way.

As I say farewell to my role as First Lady, it is my sincere hope that every American will do their part to teach our children what it means to Be Best. I ask parents to educate your children about the courageous and selfless heroes who worked and sacrificed to make this country the land of the free. And to lead by example and care for others in your community.

The promise of this Nation belongs to all of us. Do not lose sight of your integrity and values. Use every opportunity to show consideration for another person and build good habits into your daily lives.

In all circumstances, I ask every American to be an ambassador of Be Best. To focus on what unites us. To rise above what divides us. To always choose love over hatred, peace over violence, and others before yourself.

Together, as one national family, we can continue to be the light of hope for future generations and carry on America's legacy of raising our nation to greater heights through our spirit of courage, goodness and faith.

No words can express the depth of my gratitude for the privilege of having served as your First Lady.

To all the people of this country: You will be in my heart forever.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING RICK SENSE'S SERVICE TO WISCONSIN'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize my District Chief of Staff, Rick Sense, for his service to Wisconsin's Eighth District. He began his career with the U.S. House of Representatives in January of 2011 in the office of my predecessor, Congressman Reid Ribble. He then continued his service as my District Chief of Staff, serving with me in the 115th and 116th Congress, until his time working with us in the House has come to an end here in 117th Congress.

Rick has dedicated his Congressional career to providing superior service to the con-

stituents of Northeast Wisconsin. He understood that his job was to make the federal government work for Wisconsinites. He dedicated his tenure to forging relationships from Appleton to Sturgeon Bay to Marinette, bringing together federal partners, the business community, and local nonprofits to share knowledge and resources.

Many who have had the pleasure of working with Rick describe him as passionate, reliable, approachable, intelligent, and extremely hardworking. He has a keen awareness of the needs of the community and provides valuable support in accomplishing the mission of my office. Despite being a Cubs fan, Rick is a valuable asset to Northeast Wisconsin whose work has touched the lives of many.

Additionally, Rick has inspired the next generation of leaders. Through patient instruction and mentorship, interns and staff who have worked with Rick have moved on to employments with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as Member offices in this Chamber, creating a ripple of change that will surely leave positive impacts in its wake.

I wish Rick the best as he begins his new role with the Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. I am sure he will excel in this new position, bringing with him a deep dedication to servant leadership and desire to foster collaboration amongst Wisconsin's business community.

Politics can be a difficult world to navigate. Rick brings to it a compassion and respect that provides a constant reminder to us all of why we choose to serve this great nation. I'd like to close with the words of our former president, Abraham Lincoln. "With malice towards none, with charity for all." Rick truly embodies these words, and I am proud to have served in this fine institution with him.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOUSTON COUNTY BEING ESTABLISHED IN TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Houston County being established and incorporated into the state of Tennessee.

Officially established on January 21st in the year 1871, Houston County takes its name from the legendary Sam Houston, who, among many things, served as the first member of Congress from the 7th district of Tennessee. Like its namesake, Houston County embodies the spirit of American grit and perseverance. From the stoked lime kilns of days past to the thriving timber industry of today, Houston County continues to foster a strong and proud community.

Over its long history, Houston County has endeavored to faithfully honor the heritage of the Irish pioneers who settled the land through the annual Irish Day Parade. One of my favorite events of the year, the Irish Day Parade, now draws over 30,000 people to Erin. The scenic countryside of Houston County is home to gently flowing creeks and streams, rolling

hills and forests, and a vibrant community with a little bit of Ireland in its soul.

Houston County is home to many of Tennessee's finest citizens, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Houston County on this impressive anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MOLLY HAMMER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a sadness I struggle to express on behalf of a community that has lost a voice, a city that has lost a leader, and family that has lost a friend. I rise to honor the life and memory of Molly Hammer. Molly spent years gracing Kansas City and the world with a one-of-a-kind voice and an indomitable spirit. For thirteen of those years, she did so while sharing her life with metastatic breast cancer. On Tuesday, November 24, Molly lost her fight with breast cancer. She was forty-eight years old. Her story, cut tragically short, is of a soul who sought to use her gifts to spread joy and to use her hardships to inspire hope. For fifteen years, Molly sang for us. Today, we sing of her.

Those lucky enough to have followed Molly's career since its beginning know that the talent, work ethic, and grit she displayed in the final years of her life were nothing new. Her high school choir teacher remembers her astounding professionalism while playing the narrator in her high school's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. After graduating, she went on to become a stage actor and portrayed Patsy Cline on a stage in Iowa for five years. In 2005, Molly answered a spiritual call from a difficult industry where she could have the complete independence she craved—jazz and blues. And thank goodness she did. It was then that she dove into an intense study of vocal jazz and began an illustrious career in the Kansas City music community. Molly soon became a fixture of the 18th & Vine jazz scene, winning the 2016 Critics' Choice for Best Jazz Singer award from *The Pitch*, releasing four LPs—one just three months ago—and cementing her place as an integral stitch in the rich cultural fabric of Jazz's cradle.

In 2008, Molly was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she beat it. Eight years later, it came back, and Molly returned to her battle, this time fighting a more aggressive foe but with no less determination or spirit. And not only did Molly continue to bring joy to her community through song during that battle, she also became an outspoken advocate for cancer research and a powerful voice in bringing awareness to what it means to live life with the disease. She called for increased research funding and better methods of preventative screening, worked with organizations like *METAvivor* and the *Susan G. Komen Foundation*, and even lobbied Congress. However, though her music and her advocacy took her